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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, July 12, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended July 7 totaled an estimated 15.2 billion ton-miles, 17.2 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. Both weeks included the Independence Day holiday and both years marked the second week of the coal miners' holiday.

Loadings of piggyback trailers and containers for the week ended June 30 totaled 93,842, the highest ever recorded. The weekly total was 12.3 percent higher than the corresponding week a year ago.

Cumulative traffic volume for the first 27 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 478.2 billion ton-miles, 15.8 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended July 7 totaled 323,444, up 14.2 percent from last year, but 19.3 percent lower than the preceding non-holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 30.0 percent in the East, 16.3 percent in the South and 6.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 14 of the 21 commodity groups showed increases. Coal loadings were up 23,814 cars (38.6 percent), as utilities continued to stockpile in anticipation of a possible coal strike later in the year. All of the 21 groups declined from the preceding non-holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended June 30 totaled 53,831 cars, up 11.6 percent from the corresponding week of 1983.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 26 weeks of the year was 1,314,327 cars, 17.1 percent higher than last year, and 2,268,334 trailers and/or containers, up 17.1 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 7/7/84:

	Loadings in Week ended July 7, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,469	D	3,319	11.9	D	2,756	11.3
Other farm products	3,359	D	452	11.9	D	404	12.0
Metallic ores	17,007	D	2,284	11.8	D	1,022	6.0
Coal	85,494	I	23,814	38.6	D	26,924	31.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,230	I	2,441	27.8	D	2,356	21.0
Nonmetallic minerals	11,238	I	1,562	16.1	D	1,176	10.5
Grain mill products	8,871	D	718	7.5	D	1,237	13.9
Food and kindred products	9,262	I	67	0.7	D	1,995	21.5
Primary forest products	9,504	D	742	7.2	D	4,540	47.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	4,991	I	92	1.9	D	2,824	56.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,137	I	1,352	11.5	D	2,379	18.1
Chemicals and allied products	19,812	I	2,260	12.9	D	4,202	21.2
Petroleum products	4,093	I	187	4.8	D	749	18.3
Stone, clay and glass products	10,157	I	652	6.9	D	1,784	17.6
Coke	5,327	I	303	6.0	D	75	1.4
Metals and products	7,803	I	1,828	30.6	D	2,754	35.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	13,819	I	2,235	19.3	D	5,205	37.7
Waste and scrap materials	6,967	I	1,176	20.3	D	2,688	38.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,167	D	353	5.4	D	1,638	26.6
All other carloads	50,555	I	10,072	24.9	D	10,383	20.5
LCL traffic	182	D	24	11.7	D	35	19.2
Total Cars Loaded	323,444	I	40,149	14.2	D	77,126	19.3
Corresponding week of 1983	283,295						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (27 weeks)	10,608,476	9,440,340	I 12.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
26 weeks ended June 30	463.0	400.0	I 15.8
Week ended July 7	15.2	12.9	I 17.2
27 weeks cumulative	478.2	413.0	I 15.8

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